

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03047 01 OF 02 190242Z

70/51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 INT-05 CU-02

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 VO-03 SCA-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

CIEP-01 SR-02 ORM-01 /132 W
----- 088387

P R 181211Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9411

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

ZD/AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03047 01 OF 02 190242Z

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3047

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LAST LINE)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR MOPS ECON CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT -- FEBRUARY 18, 1975

GENERAL

1. THE KC TOOK DEI DOS AND PEAM REANG ISLAND ON THE LOWER MEKONG. OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS THE KC HAVE DESTROYED THE EQUIVALENT OF A FANK BRIGADE AS THEY TOOK THREE MEKONG CHOKE-POINTS PARTLY BECAUSE THE HIGH COMMAND COMMITTED INDIVIDUAL BATTALIONS PIECEMEAL AND PARTLY DUE TO POOR LEADERSHIP ON THE GROUND. BIRD AIR BEGAN ITS AUGMENTED C-130 AIRLIFT, TEMPORARILY SUPPLEMENTED BY CHARTED STRETCH DC-8S OPERATED BY U.S.-FLAG COMMERCIAL CARRIERS. THE GKR RAISED POL PRICES AND ELECTRICITY RATES, WITH SOME POPULAR GRUMBLING RESULTING. SIHANOUK RETURNED TO CHINA AFTER SPENDING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH HIS NORTH VIETNAMESE ALLIES, LEAVING A HINT OF A SOFTENING IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03047 01 OF 02 190242Z

2. THE GKR INCREASED THE PRICE OF GASOLINE AND ELECTRICITY, CAUSING A WAVE OF ANXIETY AMONG HARD-PRESSED CIVIL SERVANTS AND TEACHERS. LAW STUDENTS MET FEBRUARY 14 AND THE LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONDEMNED POL PRICE INCREASES. COMMENT: OPPOSITION TO PRICE INCREASES HAS NOT CALESCED BECAUSE MOST KHMER ARE FULLY OCCUPIED TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET FOR THEIR OWN FAMILIES. THE GKR HAS GIVEN

EVERY INDICATION THAT IT WILL MOVE FIRMLY AGAINST STUDENT EFFORTS TO USE ECONOMIC ISSUES TO FORCE ANOTHER GKR-YOUTH CONFRONTATION.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

3. PARTICIPANTS AT THE FEBRUARY 8 CLOSING SESSION OF THE DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES ADOPTED A NUMBER OF POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS UNDER THE RUBRIC "ECONOMIC DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTIONS." RESOLUTION 2 CONDEMNED THE U.S. FOR AGGRESSION IN CAMBODIA, DENOUNCED THE USE OF POISONOUS CHEMICALS BY THE U.S. AND THE "PUPPET ADMINISTRATION" AND DEMANDED THE U.S. CEASE INTERFERENCE IN KHMER AFFAIRS SO GRUNK CAN LEAD THE KHMER PEOPLE TO RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

4. THE GKR NOTED THAT IT HAS "BITTERLY LEARNED" OF THE DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES' DECISION TO SEAT GRUNK. A GKR COMMUNIQUE DEPLORED THE POLITICIZATION OF THE DAKAR ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AS "HELPING TO CREATE AN UNFAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 29TH UNGA RESOLUTION" ON KHMER PEACE TALKS. THE GKR REJECTED THE CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTIONS ON CAMBODIA.

5. THE ALGERIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY REFUSED VISAS TO GKR DELEGATES SEEKING TO ATTEND THE ALGERIAN CONFERENCE OF THE GROUP OF 77 FEBRUARY 15-18.

6. AMBASSADOR HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN JANUARY 27. LON NOL HAS GIVEN AGREEMENT TO THE NOMINATION OF A NEW MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR, ABDUL RAHMAN BIN JALAL. LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, THE NEW MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR WILL LIVE IN BANGKOK.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 03047 01 OF 02 190242Z

GRUNK/FUNK

7. SIHANOUK AND PARTY RETURNED TO PEKING FEBRUARY 15 AFTER SPENDING TET IN HANOI. THE PRINCE DID GET TOGETHER WITH IN-COUNTRY LEADER IENG SARY, ALSO VISITING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL, AND IENG SARY SAW HIM OFF AT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AFP, SIHANOUK TOOK A SOFT LINE TOWARD THE U.S. SAYING "WE ARE READY TO FORGET THE PAST AND PRESERVE GOOD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" IF THE USG DROPS LON NOL AND HAS ASSOCIATES. THE PRINCE CLAIMED THAT THE INSURGENTS DO NOT WANT THE U.S. TO LOSE FACE IN CAMBODIA AND THAT "WE OFFERED THEM A PLAN WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO RESTORE PEACE WITH HONOR."

8. CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCASTING IN KHMER HAS MADE THE POINT THAT THE CPNLAF (THE ARMY) AND THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE "ARE ONLY PUNISHING THE HANDFUL OF TRAITOROUS RINGLEADERS" SUCH AS LON NOL, ET AL, AND THAT THE ANNIHILATION OF THIS SMALL HANDFUL WILL RETURN SECURITY AND TRUE LIBERATION. COMMENT: IN-COUNTRY RADIO HAS SINGLED OUT THE SEVEN LEADING REPUBLICANS LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT OTHE GKR MEMBERS CAN SAFELY RALLY TO GRUNK/FUNK. CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS YET TO CATCH UP WITH SIHANOUK'S RECENT SUGGESTIONS THAT EVEN LEADERS AMONG THE SEVEN ARE ELIGIBLE TO RALLY.

9. GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK CONTINUES HIS ARAB-WORLD TRAVELS. HE VISITED LEBANON AND SYRIA THIS PAST WEEK AND IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO QATAR. COMMENT: CHHAK IS DOUBTLESS TRYING TO MEND FENCES AMONG DEFECTORS AT LAST YEAR'S UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (QATAR VOTED FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND LEBANON ABSTAINED).

ECONOMIC

10. ON FEBRUARY 16, GKR RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TOTALLED 16.7 THOUSAND METRIC TONS OR A 30-DAY SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF 454 M/T PER DAY. AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION DURING THE WEEK WAS 365.7 TONS. NO RICE ARRIVED IN THE CITY OTHER THAN 15 TONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 03047 01 OF 02 190242Z

LOCAL ORIGIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03047 02 OF 02 181412Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 INT-05 CU-02

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 VO-03 SCA-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

CIEP-01 SR-02 ORM-01 /132 W

----- 079984

P R 181211Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9412

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03047 02 OF 02 181412Z

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI

CNO

COMNAVINTCOM

COMSEVENTHFLT

COMUSMACTHAI

COMUSSAG

CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

DIA WASHDC

III MAF

7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3047

11. EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 11, THE RATE FOR ELECTRICITY WAS RAISED FROM 90 TO 150 RIELS PER KILOWATT HOUR AND THE RATE FOR WATER MOVED FROM 34 TO 100 RIELS PER CUBIC METER. THE NEXT STEP INCREASE IS PLANNED FOR APRIL 1, 1975. IN ANOTHER LONG OVERDUE MOVE, THE GKR, AT THE SAME TIME, INCREASED POL PRICES TO KEEP RETAIL PRICES REALISTIC IN RELATION TO IMPORT COSTS. MOGAS JUMPED FROM 350 TO 590 RIELS PER LITER WITH INCREASES AVERAGING 70 PERCENT IN ALL OTHER AREAS EXCEPT AVGAS WHICH WAS RAISED ONLY 25 PERCENT. THE INCREASE WAS THE FIRST SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1974, WHEN THE GKR INTRODUCED THE ECONOMIC REFORM PACKAGE.

12. THE PRICE OF LOCAL RICE ON THE BLACK MARKET INCREASED 18 PERCENT; IMPORTED RICE WENT UP 15 PERCENT, AND KEROSENE PRICES WERE RAISED BY 60 PERCENT; PRICES WERE STEADY OR DECLINED DURING THE PAST WEEK FOR MOST OTHER GOODS SOLD IN PHNOM PENH RETAIL MARKETS. FRESH WATER FISH WAS DOWN 18 PERCENT, AND MEAT, POULTRY AND VEGETABLES AVERAGED 9 PERCENT REDUCTIONS FOLLOWING THE TET HOLIDAYS. SUNDRY ITEMS WERE GENERALLY UNCHANGED. THE INCREASED RICE PRICES ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO DECLINING STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH DUE TO THE CUT-OFF OF RIVER CONVOYS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03047 02 OF 02 181412Z

THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE WAS UNCHANGED AT 1,650 RIELS PER DOLLAR, WHILE THE BLACK MARKET RATE ROSE FROM 1,730 TO 1,840 RIELS PER DOLLAR DURING THE WEEK. THE PRICE OF GOLD HELD STEADY AT AROUND 173 DOLLARS PER TROY OUNCE.

13. KHMER OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE 30,000 REFUGEES IN NEAK LUONG HAVE INADEQUATE FOOD AND ARE LIVING SOLELY ON RICE GRUEL. THE CRS SOUP DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO 11 LOCATIONS AND FEEDS APPROXIMATELY 6,000 - 7,000 REFUGEES TWO CUPS OF GRAIN AND SOY-ENRICHED RICE GRUEL PER DAY. CRS HAS AGREED TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE THE PROGRAM IF FOOD AND UTENSILS CAN BE MOVED TO NEAK LUONG. EVEN GIVEN SUCH SUPPORT, HOWEVER, THE LEVEL OF NOURISHMENT MUST BE RAISED SOON IF THE REFUGEES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED IN REASONABLE HEALTH. THE GKR'S MINISTRY OF REFUGEES AND THE MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE CITY CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REGISTER REFUGEES AND PRESS THE GOVERNMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES. THE KHMER NAVY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO BEGIN RICE TRANSPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MILITARY

14. THE CRUCIAL LOWER MEKONG AREA SAW STEADILY INCREASING PRESSURE BROUGHT ON THE KEY FANK POSITION AT PEAM REANG ISLAND, WHERE DAILY ENEMY ATTACKS INFLICTED STEADY CASUALTIES ON THE TWO FANK BATTALIONS STATIONED THERE. ON FEBRUARY 17, THE POSITION FELL, DEALING A SEVER BLOW TO FANK PLANS TO REOPEN THE MEKONG. EARLIER, ON FEBRUARY 11-12, THE KC TOOK ANOTHER KEY GOVERNMENT POSITION AT DEI DOS, A CHOKE-POINT ABOVE NEAK LOEUNG. A FANK BATTALION WAS LANDED FIVE KILOMETERS BELOW THE POSITION, BUT WAS UNABLE TO PROGRESS MORE THAN 1,000 METERS TOWARD DEI DOS, AND THE ATTEMPT WAS BROKEN OFF ON FEBRUARY 16, WHEN THE BATTALION WAS EXTRACTED. THE KC ARE ALSO INCREASING THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST NEAK LOEUNG ITSELF. INCOMING 120MM MORTAR, 105MM HOWITZER AND 107MM ROCKET FIRE HAVE ALL BEEN REPORTED RECENTLY.

15. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PRESS BULLETIN REPORTED THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL NOP PARAMOUN, MR-VI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 03047 02 OF 02 181412Z

COMMANDER, TOOK COMMAND OF THE MEKONG OPERATION REPLACING NAVAL CAPTAIN CHIM SON. THIS CHANGE OF COMMAND WAS THE FIRST STEP IN FANK PLANS TO REOPEN THE LOWER MEKONG.

16. AROUND THE CAPITAL THE HEAVIEST ENEMY PRESSURE HAS BEEN IN THE NORTHWEST SECTOR AGAINST THE REMNANTS OF THE 7TH DIVISION. FANK OPERATIONS TO LINK UP WITH THE ISOLATED 45TH BRIGADE AT PHNOM BASSET WERE STOPPED ON FEBRUARY 12 WHEN THE KC ROUTED TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 80TH BRIGADE AND FOLLOWED UP THEIR SUCCESS FOUR DAYS LATER BY PUSHING 7TH BRIGADE DEFENDERS OUT OF THE FORMER DIVISION SCORED A NOTABLE FANK SUCCESS FEBRUARY 14 WHEN 126 KC WERE KILLED IN AN ENGAGEMENT SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND CREWSERVED WEAPONS WERE CAPTURED.

17. IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE THE IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL CENTER, MAUNG RUSSEI, IS REPORTEDLY LARGELY CONTROLLED BY THE KC. ISOLATED FRIENDLY POSITIONS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE LARGE STOCKS OF RICE THERE HAVE EITHER BEEN DESTROYED OR HAVE FALLEN INTO KC HANDS. A RELIEF OPERATION WAS IN PROGRESS AS OF FEBRUARY 17.

18. AT KAMPOT THE SITUATION REMAINS GENERALLY UNCHANGED, THOUGH BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD FANK FORCES WERE REPORTEDLY CONDUCTING OPERATIONS TO ENLARGE THE PERIMETER AGAINST STRONG ENEMY RESISTANCE. THESE OPERATIONS RESULTED IN 66 ENEMY KILLED, FEBRUARY 16 AND 17. TAKEO RECEIVED STRONG ENEMY PRESSURE ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 12-13, BUT AGGR-

ESSIVE LOCAL COUNTERATTACKS SEEM TO HAVE RESTORED THE SITUATION.

19. FIFTY-THREE ROCKETS LANDED AT POCHENTONG, KILLING TWO
PEOPLE AND INJURING 31. MOST OF THE ROUNDS LANDED NORTH OF
THE AIRPORT. ANOTHER FIFTEEN ROCKETS EXPLODED IN PHNOM PENH
KILLING 9 AND INJURING 24.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM03047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0429
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750235/aaaabfiw.tel
Line Count: 392
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT -- FEBRUARY 18, 1975 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006